

United Nations

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + President of Security Council announces debate in Security Council on Bosnia and Herzegovina next Monday and Tuesday; draft resolution on situation there to be acted upon on Monday, 26 April.
- + Secretary-General condemns recent "inexcusable assault" on civilians in town of Srebrenica which left some 56 people dead.
- + Major outbreak of fighting in various locations in Azerbaidjan, says Secretary-General in report on situation in Nagorno-Karabach; however, use of heavy weaponry not confirmed by the United Nations personnel, unable to gain access to fighting areas.
- + Secretary-General, in Rome, thanks Italy for supporting United Nations peace-keeping operations; says Security Council could speed creation of Yugoslavia war crimes tribunal.
- + International Observer Missions in South Africa concerned over escalating violence following murder of Chris Hani of South African ANC.
- + Planning Committee for World Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island States begins two-day organizational session today at Headquarters; Penny Wensley of Australia elected Chairman.
- + General Assembly allocates, as exceptional measure, \$300 million for expanded United Nations Operation in Somalia, for period 1 May to 30 June; asks Secretary-General to submit cost estimates for remainder of mandate.

The President of the Security Council, Jamsheed K.A. Marker of Pakistan, informed correspondents tonight that a large debate on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina would take place in the Security Council next Monday and Tuesday afternoons. All delegations are invited to participate.

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The President of the Council also announced that the draft resolution concerning the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina would be acted upon on Monday, 26 April.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a statement issued this morning, has condemned the recent "inexcusable assault" on civilians in the town of Srebrenica during which some 56 people were killed.

He urgently called on the Bosnian Serb forces in the area to stop their "unjustifiable" attacks, which had occurred "despite explicit assurances to the contrary", and renewed his appeal to all concerned to co-operate with the efforts of the Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to restore a cease-fire and to allow free passage and the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance.

In a separate development, the United States Government has called for the early establishment of a "fair" war crimes tribunal for the prosecution of those responsible for the violations of international humanitarian law in former Yugoslavia.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, Madeleine K. Albright, the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, stressed the Security Council had the authority under the United Nations Charter to adopt a resolution establishing such a tribunal

Such a resolution, she wrote, should require that States seek to "take any measures" to permit them to comply fully with orders of the tribunal, such as surrendering accused persons and producing evidence. These measures might include the adoption of domestic legislation or the conclusion of subsidiary treaty arrangements, Mrs. Albright said.

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Because of the hostilities in certain areas of Nagorno-Karabach, United Nations personnel have been unable to visit the Kelbadjar district and establish the precise facts on the ground. It is clear, however, that there has been a major outbreak of fighting in various locations in Azerbaijan, outside the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh with the involvement of "more than local ethnic forces", says a new report by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on the situation in Nagorno-Karabach. The report emphasizes however that such an involvement has not been confirmed.

In the report, dated 14 April, the Secretary-General also urges that unimpeded access to Kelbadjar be granted immediately to international relief organizations in order to provide humanitarian relief to an estimated 50,000 displaced persons.

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"The conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, involving both Armenia and Azerbaijan, can only be solved by peaceful means", says the report. The Secretary-General therefore urges all parties to end fighting and return to the negotiating table within the framework of the Minsk Conference of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and that CSCE monitors be deployed in the region.

The report has been prepared on the basis of information provided to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Representatives in Azerbaijan and Armenia.

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The International Observer Missions in South Africa have expressed grave concern over the escalating violence following the murder last Saturday of Chris Hani, Secretary-General of the South African Communist Party and member of the National Executive of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC).

According to a press release issued at Headquarters, the observer missions of the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the European Community were deeply distressed by the death of four people and the injury of over 250 in Soweto when police fired on a crowd after a "well-disciplined commemoration rally". The ready use of arms by the police in volatile circumstances ran counter to calls for restraint by the national leaders and the Commissioner of Police and would only exacerbate an already explosive situation, they said.

The observers condemned the destruction of property and acts causing injury and loss of life, and endorsed pleas that Mr. Hani be honoured by work to establish a democratic and non-racial South Africa. They urged a speedy conclusion to multiparty negotiations leading to elections.

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Continuing his visit to Italy, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had meetings today in Rome with the President of Italy, the President of the Chamber of Deputies and the Minister of Defence. He expressed gratitude to Italian officials for supporting the United Nations and its peace-keeping operations, particularly in Somalia, Mozambique and Cambodia. Parliamentary support was important for the Organization, particularly as a way to mobilize public opinion, he stressed.

The Secretary-General also met today with his Special Representative for Mozambique, Aldo Ajello.

Yesterday, the Secretary-General told Italian officials that in order to speed the establishment of an international tribunal to deal with war crimes in the former Yugoslavia, he intended to submit the proposal to the Security Council, which could act immediately. Otherwise, if the tribunal were to be

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created by an international convention, it could take 10 years before it became operative, he said.

The Secretary-General also stated that whenever the United Nations had neither the military nor the financial power to take action, a regional organization or group of countries had to be given the mandate to do so. However, he stressed that the United Nations had to maintain control over any action.

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The 1994 Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States must find strategies to deal with the special problems of those countries, the Preparatory Committee for the Conference was told this morning as it began its two-day organizational session.

The challenge for the Preparatory Committee was to identify and address those problems, which were not only environmental in nature but developmental as well, said Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, as he opened the session.

Speaking following her election as Committee Chairman, Penny Wensley (Australia) said the Global Conference was one of the first opportunities Governments had "to put their UNCED rhetoric to the test".

The Committee also proceeded to elect its four Vice-Chairmen. Its two-day organizational session should conclude tomorrow.

The objectives of the Conference - to be held in the Barbados next year - is to adopt plans and programmes to support the sustainable development of small island developing States and the appropriate use of their marine and coastal resources. The programmes aim also at enabling them to cope "effectively, creatively and sustainably with environmental changes" and to mitigate impacts and reduce the threats posed to marine and coastal resources.

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The General Assembly today allocated \$300 million to the expanded United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) for the period 1 May to 30 June. It did so by adopting a resolution in a report of the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary).

The funds were appropriated as an exceptional measure pending detailed budget estimates for UNOSOM II. The Assembly asked the Secretary-General to submit, by 15 June, cost estimates for the operation's mandate through 31 October and a report on its actual expenditures.

UNOSOM II will begin to take over from the Unified Task Force in Somalia on 1 May. It will monitor and enforce cease-fire and other agreements, and will increase the number of United Nations troops in the country from 715 to 28,000.

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CORRECTION:

In Wednesday Highlights, 14 April, first sentence of the first paragraphe of the story on Cyprus should have read: Cyprus has protested an incident last week in the buffer zone of Nicosia at which a Greek National Guardsman was killed by a soldier serving with the "Turkish occupation forces" in Cyprus.

Also, the beginning of the first sentence of the second paragraphe should have read: In a letter to the Secretary-General, the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations, A.J. Jacovides, said the "tragic event"....

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